

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the abstract by the following new abstract:

In the system of the invention, the NO_x trap (1) is associated with catalyst-forming means (2) integrated in an exhaust line (3) of a vehicle engine (4), and the engine is associated with a common manifold or “rail” fuel feeder (7, 8) for feeding it with fuel and adapted, by modifying control parameters for the operation of the engine, to cause the engine to switch between lean mixture (9) and rich mixture (10) operation. According to the invention, the fuel feeder (7, 8) is adapted to define four strategies (11, 12, 13, 14) for controlling lean mixture operation of the engine (9), and to cause the engine to switch between its various strategies in order to keep the trap (1) in a temperature window of maximum effectiveness.